

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 IO-03

L-02 DPW-01 RSR-01 /066 W

----- 045146

R 091243Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5554

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USINT CAIRO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, CB, EG, CH

SUBJ: POSSIBLE RTG CONTRACTS WITH SIHANOUK REPRESENTATIVES

1. WE HAVE NOTED SEVERAL RECENT INDICATIONS THAT THE RTG
EITHER HAS MADE, OR IS CONTEMPLATING MAKING, DIPLOMATIC
CONTACT WITH GRUNK REPRESENTATIVES. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
THE NATION, OFTEN A BLOTTER FOR FOREIGN OFFICE
LEAKS, RAN A HEADLINE SOTRY AUGUST 3 TO THE EFFECT THAT
THAILAND'S AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO, NIPHON VILAIRAT, HAS MET
UNOFFICIALLY WITH THE GRUNK AMBASSADOR THERE. THE PAPER HAD
ANOTHER STORY AUGUST 6 THAT OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING THE
THAI BADMINTON TEAM, NOW ENROUTE TO THE PRC, MAY
MEET WITH GRUNK REPRESENTATIVES IN PEKING.

2. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION, THAI AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON
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ANAND PANYARACHUN (IN BANGKOK ON EMERGENCY LEAVE/CONSULTA-

TIONS) FIRST IGNORED AMBASSADOR UNGER'S QUESTION ABOUT THE AUGUST 3 ARTICLE IN THE NATION, AND WHEN PRESSED RESPONDED WITH A "WHERE DID THEY (THE NATION) GET THAT? ANAND LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE STORY HAD SOME BASIS IN FACT.

3. WE NOW HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI WILL VISIT CAIRO IN MID-SEPTEMBER, POSSIBLY EN-ROUTE TO THE UNGA AND SEATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. WE KNOW THAT CHARTCHAI HAS DECLINED REPEATED INVITATIONS TO VISIT ISRAEL, BUT IS NEVERTHELESS PLANNING THIS STOP-OFF IN EGYPT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT BE PLANNING TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES AT THAT TIME.

4. COMMENT: THE RTG IS STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND HOPING FERVENTLY THAT IT WILL SURVIVE WELL PAST AUGUST 15. CERTAINLY THE THAI HAVE NO LOVE FOR SIHANOUK, AND ARE MOST FEARFUL OF AN INSURGENT/SIHANOUK DOMINATED CAMBODIA. WHAT THEY DREAD MOST IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MAY BE ABLE TO USE NORTHWEST CAMBODIA AS A SANCTUARY FOR ACTIVITIES AGAINST THAILAND. IN PARTICULAR THIS MIGHT INVOLVE MEDDLING WITH THE SUBSTANTIAL KHMER ETHNIC MINORITY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF NORTHEAST THAILAND.

5. THE THAI DESPITE THEIR OWN SERIOUS RESERVATIONS, MAY BE TRYING TO SIGNAL TO SIHANOUK, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAVE NO HOSTILE INTENTIONS AGAINST HIM OR A CAMBODIA IN WHICH HE MIGHT PLAY A LEADING ROLE IF THIS SHOULD OCCUR.

UNGER

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